

## West Belfast LPG Meeting

Whiterock Children's Centre, 91 Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7PG

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 10am**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Deirdre Walsh (Chair)	Whiterock Children's Centre	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Margaret Barnes	Ardcomm Community Support	✓	
Julia Hughes	Bryson Energy	✓	
Alan Guthrie	West Belfast GP Federation	✓	
Mairéad Gilmartin	Outerwest Sure Start	✓	
Caoimhe McKenna	PAPYRUS	✓	
Elizabeth Verner	Greater Shankill FSH	✓	
Carol Bailie	Upper Springfield Whiterock FSH	✓	
Sharon Nelson	Whiterock Children's Centre	✓	
Piarais McCaffrey	Kids Together Belfast	✓	
Val Rowan	BHSCT	✓	
Michael Doherty	Glen Community Parent Youth Group	✓	
Diane McMullin	BDACT	✓	
Fionnuala McGinn	EANI	✓	
Paddy McKenna Gallagher	EA Youth Service	✓	
Chloe McCann	Toybox Early Years	✓	
Bernadette Donaghy	DePaul	✓	
Shirley Millar	Parenting NI	✓	
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill Partnership	✓	
Nicola Masterson	Outer West Belfast FSH	✓	
Penny Ambrose	Blackie River	✓	
Aisling Reynolds	Action for Children		✓
Alice McGlone	Belfast City Council		✓
Bridget Tiernan	Belfast H&SC Trust		✓
Debbie Sterritt	Belfast H&SC Trust		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Jim Donnelly	Active Communities		✓
Judith Thompson	Toybox		✓
Linda Armitage	EBCDA		✓
Michelle Muldoon	Now Group		✓
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy		✓
Jenny Hughes	Belfast City Council		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Stephanie Gray	Belfast Met		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓

Laura Forte	NIACRO		✓
Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH Coordinator		✓
Joanne Hawell	Spectrum Centre		✓
Niall Enright	USDT		✓
Zoe Rutherford	Blackie River		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Claire Neill	Clanmor Sure Start		✓
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

**Summary of Actions:**

	Topic	Action	Responsibility

**Action**  
**by:**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Chair, Deirdre Walsh opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.

### **2. Previous Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The minutes were reviewed and agreed to be an accurate transcription

### **3. Presentation – Chloe McCann, Toybox**

The Toybox programme works in partnership with children and parents to provide a rights based outreach service which aims to significantly reduce social and educational inequalities experienced by Traveller children aged 0-4 years old.

The support offered falls under 3 strands:

- i) Home Visiting – to encourage play and strengthen the capacity of Traveller parents to support their children’s well-being and eagerness to learn.
- ii) Inclusion – encouraging Traveller families to engage with services such as Sure Start, Nursery and Primary School.
- iii) Advocacy – ensuring the voice of Traveller families is heard within service and policy.

Families cannot self-refer, it needs to be via an organisation.

Information leaflets and a referral form are attached.

### **4. Presentation – Caoimhe McKenna, POPYRUS**

Caoimhe McKenna from POPYRUS gave an overview of who Popyrus are and what they do.

The charity was founded in 1997 by a mother who tragically lost her son to suicide. After linking in with other parents, POPYRUS (Parent’s Association for the Prevention of Young Suicide) was created.

Suicide is the biggest killer of under 35’s in the UK and the aim of POPYRUS is to offer support, raise awareness and open discussion around this often taboo subject.

#### ***Support***

Through their ‘Hopelink 2/7’ helpline, paid advisors are on hand to offer support and a listening ear. All conversations are anonymous and confidential. Besides phone calls, there is also the option of web chats, texts and email communication. Help is available in 240 languages.

***Equip***

Through the delivery of training programmes, PAPYRUS aim to equip communities with suicide prevention skills. Training can be delivered to any group or individuals who work with young people.

***Influence***

There is a need to change how people talk about and engage with suicide. PAPYRUS' aim is to shape social policy and to implement national suicide prevention strategies. It is hoped this will be achieved through hard hitting and dynamic campaigns, some of which can be viewed on this website at: [www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

## 5. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Greater Shankill
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Sept-Nov 23
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	Sept – 18 Oct – 16 Nov - 7
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1497
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	School Family Support Worker Self Community Organisation GP Nurse Psychologist Counsellor Disability Social Worker
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASD supports for parents awaiting assessment / diagnosis for children</li> <li>• Increase in self referral for financial support due to cost of living hardship</li> <li>• Family support services are limited and some organisations are closed or have a long waiting list</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>GS Hub have provided access to support for families for essentials through the Hub discretionary funding. This has ensured families had access to gas, electric, home heating oil &amp; food.</p> <p>Families requesting family support have been connected with an agency to support their needs.</p> <p>Families seeking therapeutic support and counselling have been connected with a service.</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
None	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer West Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	September – November 2023
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	September - 13 October - 14 November – 19 (@21/11/2023)
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	YTD - 151
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Self School Community EWO GP Health Visitor MDT
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<p>More services needed around - ASD Supports</p> <p>Lack of local services available – at capacity / waiting lists.</p> <p>Increase in referrals for financial / Christmas support.</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>Funding available for Winter (from Council) which will be a great help to families.</p> <p>Attended H&amp;WB day and provided information on Family Support Hubs.</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
<p>Jordan Barr / Catherine Barr / Keri O'Halloran (Youth Start) attended September's monthly meeting providing information on supports they have available.</p> <p>Attended Ray Jones Review event at Belfast Castle / gain better understanding / insight into impact this can have.</p>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Upperspringfield Whiterock FSH
<b>Timeframe:</b>	October to November
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	Oct 27 Nov 30 Total 57
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	184 Referrals to date
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Increase in Self referrals. Community Sure start GP/MDT Teams
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<p>Families continue to contact Hub for Support with Gas and electric. No Vouchers Available.</p> <p>Family support /child counselling services</p> <p>ASD support unavailable due to capacity levels.</p> <p>Housing issues with landlords i.e. boiler replacement.</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>Adult parenting class was successful this was alongside Parenting NI parents feedback was positive.</p> <p>Black mountain shared spaces facilitated here in WCC cookery session which was well attended with positive outcomes.</p> <p>Meeting arranged by CYPSP along with Sothern Trust regarding the support WCC provided for BME families and what's available in the area.</p> <p>30<sup>th</sup> October Exercise classes for parents and children, through dance and movement.</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> October had Halloween craft session well attended by local families.</p>	

1<sup>st</sup> November WCC took a group of families to we are vertigo. Through Belfast city council funding was very successful

Lord mayor of Belfast visited the centre 21/11/23 and launched our Christmas appeal.

ANTI POVERTY Strategy meeting 14/11/23 was attended by Sharon online.

**AOB**

Referrals continue to come in for Christmas support the can see the anxiety and the stress of the cost of living and increase in cost.



<b>FSH Area:</b>	Greater Falls	
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Sept – Nov 23	
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	60	
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	181 in year	
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	School Community CAMHS Self GP MDT Social Worker Gateway	Health Visitor Voluntary Organisation EWO
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>		
<p>Limited supports for disability, limited child therapy supports.</p> <p>Lengthy waiting lists for additional needs</p>		
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>		
<p>Use of vouchers for families in need continues (Elec/Gas only available from Nov)</p> <p>Social Super Market – supporting families who have been referred to BRCG Social Supermarket with onward referrals, signposting to relevant orgs. And advice and guidance given.</p> <p>Mindful Explorers programme coming on board in January in BRCG and supporting families in need.</p>		
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>		

	<p><b>6. Members Updates</b></p> <p><b><i>Christmas Appeal</i></b> Both Michael Doherty from Glen Parent and Deirdre Walsh from Whiterock Children’s Centre mentioned that their Christmas toy/voucher appeals are underway.</p> <p><b><i>Bernadette Donaghy – DePaul</i></b> DePaul currently have capacity on their floating support scheme which is aimed at preventing homelessness such as advocating on people’s behalf with landlords and the like and offering support.</p> <p><b><i>Shirley Millar – Parenting NI</i></b> Parenting NI are offering free courses on practical parenting, covering topics such as how to budget at the end of the 4 sessions the participants will receive a £20 voucher for full attendance.</p> <p><b><i>Diane McMullin – BDACT</i></b> There has been an update in the criminality of Nitrous Oxide making it a Class C drug and now illegal. As a result the PSNI have been educated in this substance.</p>
	<p><b>7. LPG Update</b></p> <p><b><i>a) BCC Hardship Fund</i></b> Belfast City Council have agreed funding across all Belfast Hubs and the SEHSCT which covers an area outside of BHSCT boundary but within BCC boundary. The money is to be used on food, fuel, electricity etc. Not for white goods. It is hoped the fund should be through and available for use by 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.</p> <p><b><i>b) Shaping Our Vision for Belfast event</i></b> This event was in response to the Ray Jones report and findings. Around 140 people attended and Prof. Ray Jones was the keynote speaker. Although the event was a great success, attendee’s feedback is essential.</p> <p>The consultation process is underway, closing on 1<sup>st</sup> December and it was highlighted that the consultation document should be completed by as many people as possible as this is your chance to have your say on the report finding and suggestions.</p> <p>BAOG are currently working on a collective response, if anyone would like to send anything through to be included please forward to Charlene Mitchell.</p>
	<p><b>8. A.O.B</b></p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Deirdre thanking all those in attendance.</p>

### 2024 Dates for West Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

<b>DATES (Wednesday)</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>VENUES</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	TBA
20 <sup>th</sup> March	11am	TBA
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	11am	TBA
TBA July	10am	TBA
18 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	TBA
20 <sup>th</sup> November	10am	TBA